Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 USIE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /081 W $\,$

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O R 101158Z JAN 75 FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8075 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 217 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 0187

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, US

SUBJECT: US RESPONSE TO HIJZEN LETTER ON CHEESE IMPORTS

REF: A) STATE 283822 B) STATE 004584

- 1. MISSION URGENTLY REQUESTS PERMISSION TO SEND RESPONSE, TEXT OF WHICH IS IN REFTEL A, TO HIJZEN'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 20 ON CHEESE IMPORTS.
- 2. BY VERY STRONG PRESSURE ON THE COMMISSION, THE UNITED STATES EXTRACTED FROM HIJZEN ON DECEMBER 20 A LETTER WHICH WOULD, WHEN COMBINED WITH A US RESPONSE, ALLOW US TO AVOID THE ENTRY INTO THE US OFSUBSIDIZED EC CHEESES VIA THIRD COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO HIJZEN'S LETTER.
- 3. THE COMMISSION HAS AGAIN CALLED TO ASK WHAT THE STATUS IS. HIJZEN IS WORRIED THAT MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES MAY ASK HIM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHY, WHEN THE UNITED STATES WAS SO IMPATIENT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,

IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO HIJZEN'S LETTER DESPITE THE PASSAGE OF NEARLY THREE WEEKS. HIJZEN FEELS VERY VULNERABLE ON THIS POINT, SINCE HE SIGNED HIS LETTER DESPITE SOME STRONG MEMBER STATE OPPOSITION.

- 4. THE URGENCY OF A RESPONSE HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY THE WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PENDING COUNTERVAILING DUTY COMPLAINTS (REFTEL B) AND THE INCLUSION OF CHEESE AS A CONTINUING PROBLEM.
- 5. THERE IS A REAL RISK THAT EC PERMREPS RETURNING FROM HOLIDAYS WILL RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT US COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTIONS IN GENERAL AND CHEESE IN PARTICULAR. RESULT MAY BE TO BEGIN UNRAVELING OF THE FRAGILE ARRANGEMENT ON CHEESE SUBSIDIES. THEREFORE, IN RECOMMEND THAT AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSMIT US REPLY BE GIVEN SOONEST.GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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